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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/660,583 | 09/12/2003 | Wataru Kawata | 03560.003351. | 7881 |

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EXAMINER

MACKEY, PATRICK HEWEY

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3651

DATE MAILED: 05/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/660,583

Applicant(s)

KAWATA, WATARU

Examiner

Patrick H. Mackey

Art Unit

3651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-11, 13-20 and 25-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8-11, 13-20 and 25-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed 4/11/05 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –,

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 9, and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakamoto. Sakamoto discloses a sheet feeding device that includes a plurality of sheet trays (70, 71, 72, 73); a plurality of sheet feeding means (14) that feed sheets in directions opposite to each other; a plurality of transport paths (17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25); a primary transport path (5); an interflow position (3); and sheet reversing means (29). The device is capable of operating such that a sheet feeding means from the plurality of sheet feeding means is selected depending on whether sheets are transported in a face-up state on the primary transport path or in a face-down state on the primary transport path.

4. Claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 13-15 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Uchida et al. (JP 2000211804 A). Uchida discloses a sheet feeding device that includes an image forming device (1); a post processing device (40); a plurality of sheet trays (13 above 10, 14) a plurality of sheet feeding means (12, 16) that feed sheets in directions opposite to each other; a primary transport path between the trays (18); a plurality of transport paths (See Fig. 1); and an interflow position (between 12 and 22). The device is capable of operating such that a sheet feeding means from the plurality of sheet feeding means is selected depending on whether

Art Unit: 3651

sheets are transported in a face-up state on the primary transport path or in a face-down state on the primary transport path.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 4-6, 8-11, 13-20, and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uchida et al. (JP 2000211804 A) in view of Sakamoto. Uchida discloses a sheet feeding device that includes a plurality of sheet trays (13 within 10, 14) and a plurality of sheet feeding means (15, 16) that feed sheets from the sheet trays to insert the sheets between two sheets transported from an image formation apparatus (1). The device is capable of operating such that a sheet feeding means from the plurality of sheet feeding means is selected depending on whether sheets are transported in a face-up state on the primary transport path or in a face-down state on the primary transport path. Uchida discloses all the limitations of the claims, but it does not disclose a plurality of sheet feeding means that feed sheets to transport paths in opposite directions. However Sakamoto discloses a sheet feeding device that includes a plurality of sheet feeding means (14) that feed sheets to transport paths (17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25) in opposite directions of sheet trays for the purpose of feeding sheets in different orientations (see col. 4, lines 15-45). It would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify Uchida by utilizing a plurality of sheet feeding

Art Unit: 3651

means that feed sheets to transport paths in opposite directions, as disclosed by Sakamoto, feeding sheets in different orientations.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

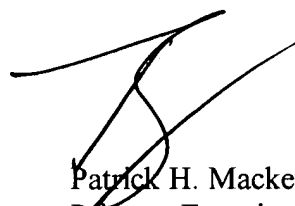
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick H. Mackey whose telephone number is (571) 272-6916.

The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday 7:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathy Matecki can be reached on (571) 272-6951. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3651

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Patrick H. Mackey
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3651

May 17, 2005